

INTRODUCTORY
TO THE
FIRST REPORT
OF THE
BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.
FEBRUARY, 1850.

By
J. D. B. De Bow

Baton Rouge, Feb. 21, 1850

SIR—In conformity with an act, approved March 15, 1845, I was appointed, immediately after its passage, J. H. B. DeBow, Esq., Superintendent of the Bureau of Statistics, created by the Legislature referred to. He entered with great zeal on the discharge of his duties, and now transmits to the Legislature his First Report on the subject, which was entrusted to his care. In this interesting report, and in researches so conducive to the prosperity of our State, Mr. DeBow has displayed all the ardour, ability and patriotism which I expected from his well known character. The present report embraces the action of the Bureau of Statistics for the year 1849, and the co-operation of other States in the same matter. It contains many valuable suggestions, and is a mere introduction to a Report of several hundred pages, now in course of preparation in the Office, and to be presented at the next session of the Legislature. This last will present a map of statistics upon every subject connected with the soil, population, agriculture, manufactures, commerce and internal improvements of the State of Louisiana, and will be one of the most complete records of the kind published by any State in the Union. In the preparation of this volume, and as a contingent fund for printing circulars, for stationery, postages, purchases and copies of documents, I recommend that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars be, as requested by the Superintendent in his Report, granted to him by the Legislature.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES GAYARRÉ,

Secretary of State of Louisiana.

James D. Bryce,

President pro tem. of the Senate.

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INTRODUCTORY

TO THE

FIRST REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA,

JANUARY 1st., 1850.

This office having been established by the Act of the 15th March, 1848, the undersigned, at the request of the Secretary of State, consented to undertake its duties, and to prepare a report, to be presented at the next ensuing Session of the Legislature.

The terms of the Act require a report that shall embrace "information relative to the population, agricultural and other products, resources and commerce of the State, the mechanic arts, public education, public health and manufactures, and such other information as may be deemed important," etc.

It was evidently the intention of the Legislature to obtain, if practicable, by means of this office, a complete statistical record, from year to year, showing the progress of our population and industry, in all their various manifestations. Such a record, if preserved for a long series of years, would, in the contrasts admitted of epoch with epoch, and our own with other States, prove an invaluable adjunct in legislature, and furnish a mass of information, in an available form, for the use of every class of citizens.

The field being wide and the subjects of research innumerable, the undersigned prepared, immediately after his appointment, a circular letter, setting out in full the objects of the Bureau, and soliciting in its aid, observations and facts from all sources. A large number of these circulars were forwarded to state and parish officers, members of the Legislature, and leading citizens throughout the State.*

It is believed, that the queries propounded in the circular embrace every subject of interest relating to the soil and inhabitants

* See Appendix No. 1, for circular.

of the State, which should be embodied in presenting a complete statistical report. It is impossible to say of any they are unimportant, and although the prospect of obtaining information upon all, or even a majority of the points, is remote, omissions could only be made with the risk of falling short of what is actually attainable. Individuals informed upon any particular point in the circular, it was hoped would reply to that in exclusion of all others, whilst others, having the time and ability, would make a more general response.

To some extent, the office has been disappointed in its reasonable expectations. Independently of the general indisposition to undertake labors, and more especially those involved in *statistics*, voluntarily, and without compensation, as the experience of State and Federal officers proves, the novelty of the present call was likely to be unfavorable. It could not be known clearly and certainly, the objects of the Bureau, and its minute interrogations, and without this knowledge, co-operation, to any extent, was hardly to be anticipated. We have but lately begun to press statistical enquiries in any part of our country, and it is still too common to sneer at their results, as of little practical value, and always capable of proving whatever is required for the occasion. This objection would apply with equal force to the sciences of law, medicine, theology and many others, which is sufficient in its refutation. Without facts, to proceed upon all reasoning must be unsatisfactory, and legislation result rather in injury than good. The industry, habits and condition of a people should be accurately understood before attempting to extend or improve them. No State has been behind Louisiana in the negligent manner of preserving her records, and the fact of her population and industry, and the result is, that no state has had more contradictory and voluminous legislation. To implant a new principle or convince the understanding of a whole community upon a matter, almost for the first time brought before them, involves a revolution requiring both time and patience.*

* The importance of statistical researches to all classes, and more especially to the legislator, may be thus succinctly stated: "To the agriculturalist, it is interesting to know what proportion the population bears to the number of acres in cultivation, and the production of the soil, so as to regulate his labor and economize his means—for labor is wealth. To the merchant, it is necessary to know the proportion of the population to the produce of the country, the imports and the exports, so as to ascertain the consumption and the average expenditure of each family, and thereby govern his enterprising speculations. To the physician, it is important to ascertain the proportion of the births to the deaths, and of each of these to the aggregate population, as well as the respective causes of death, and the effects of climate on diseases, so as to arrive at sound deductions respecting the nature of complaints peculiar to certain countries, and to certain ages, professions, and classes of the people; the general state of public health, and other important points connected with vital

There is something formidable to most persons in a long array of figures, and many are disposed to smile at the minute labors of the statistician as impracticable and useless. Yet, from these may be deducted the wisest rules in the government of society and the amelioration of man. Those who will not give themselves time to examine a subject, are the speediest to condemn. One readily acquires the character of a cold abstractionist or dull plodder, who devotes any consideration to the results of statistics. The labor is almost thankless, and must be endured without sympathy. The South has thus produced scarce a single statistician, whilst at the North, the number, though small, is continually increasing. We know that, to make an able report, or a convincing demonstration in Congress or in the departments of government

statistics. To the statesman it is indispensable to know the number of the population—their wealth or poverty—their increase or decrease—the number of poor in comparison with the rich—the number of laborers, or the productive part, with the number of thinkers, or the unproductive part—the proportion of the sexes—the number of marriages—and the general state of public morals, so as to enact wise and just laws that will not bear heavier on one part of the community than another, but such as tend to prevent vice and encourage virtue, and are calculated to promote the welfare and equitable government of the whole. To the Philosopher it is interesting to know the ratio of mortality in a country, and to trace its causes, to ascertain the number of marriages, the average produce of these marriages, and to investigate the various contingent circumstances which affect the reproduction of the species, the value of lives, and the doctrine of probabilities, and thus be enabled to calculate the epoch when any given population would double itself, and a thousand other matters highly important and interesting to an inquiring mind.

“Statistics,” says Mr. CHAMBERS in the *Edinburgh Journal of Education*, “is a science of comparatively late date, but it is one which promises to be of considerable service to mankind. Whatever can be ascertained by taking down numbers and instances and making summaries of them, may be said to be a proper object for this science. It is generally applied to such matters as the amount of population, the rate of mortality, the progress of commerce and manufactures, and the increase or diminution of crime. The benefit of coming to correct reckonings about these matters must be obvious, but we shall cite one instance to make it quite clear. From accounts which have been kept of burials in England for the last fifty years, it appears that the rate of mortality, or number who die yearly, in comparison with the whole population, diminish regularly down to 1831, but has since then been a little on the rise, showing the condition of the people at large (mortality depending on condition) was improving until that time, but has since been slightly declining. When such a fact as this is ascertained, statesmen are put on the alert to discover, and if possible remove the causes. Thus it is seen a nation may be much benefited by taking a census, and keeping of a correct register of deaths. The value of statistical operations then, is manifest. Statistics may be said to be the account of a nation for ascertaining the state of its affairs. One which keeps no statistical records may be said to be like a merchant who does business without keeping a ledger or ever coming to a balance. Statistics bear in like manner upon many of the interests of private life.—Of this we trust to be able to give some notable instances in the sequel.”

The science of statistics is thus defined by HAZARD: “The science of statistics is of recent origin, Archenball, who was born at Elbing, in Prussia, in 1719, and died in 1772 was the first who gave the name and a scientific form to this branch of knowledge. His compend, originally published in 1749, went through seven editions. His most distinguished pupil, Schlossa, carried out his views still further in the excellent yet incomplete ‘Theory of Statistics,’ printed at Gettingen, in 1804. In 1807 appeared Newman’s ‘Outlines of Statistics.’ In the systematic and compendous treatment of this subject, Toze, Remer, Meusel, Sprengel, Mannert, Fischer, and especially Hassell, have distinguished themselves. The last-named is the eminent geographer. In Italy there are the well known names of Balbi, Quadri, and Gioja. The first European government that paid any atten-

nothing is more important than to be possessed of the facts and figures of the subject. Hence the Government begins now to make the most elaborate collections and returns, and sends out in addition to the decennial census blanks, innumerable circulars to every quarter of the republic.

The undersigned does not doubt, that in the future history of this Bureau, should the legislature pursue the plan of publishing its annual reports, a vast amount of practical information will be furnished by the voluntary responses and communications of citizens in all the various classes and pursuits.* As the importance of the matter

tion to the collection of statistics in a systematic manner, though this was on a limited scale, was Sweden.

About the middle of the last century a special commission was employed who made known, at intervals of five years, many interesting facts in relation to the population of the country, etc. Schlosser having called attention to the important results of the Swedish commission, several other States soon entered into a similar arrangement. There is now a Statistical Department, or what is termed a "Bureau" in connection with the government of Prussia, Austria, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Naples and Sardinia. At the head of the "Bureau" in Berlin, is a gentleman of great intelligence, M. J. G. Hoffman. In 1832 Lord Auckland and Mr. Poulett Thompson, who then presided over the Board of Trade in England, established a statistical office in that Department, to collect, arrange, and publish statements relating to the condition and bearing upon the various interests of the British Empire. The volumes annually printed and laid before Parliament by this office, are well known and highly esteemed. In the year 1831 a Statistical Society was formed in the kingdom of Saxony, which has prosecuted its objects with great energy and success. The French Society of Universal Statistics was founded on the 22d November, 1829, and is under the protection of the king. It proposes and decrees prizes, grants, medals, publishes a monthly collection of its transactions, and maintains a correspondence with learned bodies in all countries. The Society numbers at present more than fifteen hundred members, French and foreign, who are classed into titular, honorary and corresponding members. The subjects about which the Society is employed are arranged into three classes: First—Physical and descriptive statistics, embracing topography, hydrography, meteorology, geology, mineralogy, population, man considered physically, hygiene and the sanitary state. Second—Positive and applied statistics, embracing vegetables and animal productions, agriculture, industry, commerce, navigation, state of the sciences, general instructions, literature, languages, and the fine arts. Third, Moral and Philosophical statistics, including the forms of religious worship, legislative and judicial power, public administration, finance, the military, marine and diplomacy.

The science of statistics may be considered as almost a new one in our country, it has, nevertheless, of late excited much attention, and we see from the reports of Congress and of State, down to the newspaper press, the strongest evidences of its favor and progress. Such a science is worthy of all attention, and deserves to be introduced into our schools and colleges as it is into the merchant's counting house and the Legislative halls, as an independent and most important branch of sound practical education.

* A large part of the information obtained by the Federal Government, and published in its reports, is obtained through the agency of circular letters. It was thus Mr. Walker published from the Treasury in 1846, a volume showing the condition of our industry, North and South. His circular embraces sixty questions; among others, "Capital invested in Manufactures," "Amount in Materials," "Profits on Capital," "Annual quantity of Manufactures," "Persons Employed," "Period," "Rates of Wages," "Agricultural Products," etc. It is thus the Patent Office is enabled, annually, to publish its voluminous reports. Circulars are sent to every hamlet in the nation, and the returns are digested so as to present a thousand pages of valuable matter. After all, however, it is only from the decennial census, obtained by regular and salaried agents, that precise and accurate results for the whole country can be had.

becomes better understood, from the published results, the fullness, minuteness and reliability of the reports will, in a higher degree, be secured. At the same time to rely exclusively upon these responses, would be to stop very far short of that excellence to which the office may with propriety aspire.

The important consideration should guide our movements, that the labors undertaken are not solely for the benefit of a single State, but extend their influences over the nation. Louisiana is one only of a large community of States, distinct, yet intimately dependant the one upon the other, and interested, in the last degree in each others' welfare and progress. These States have a common government, but with such circumscribed and restricted powers, and so far removed from its various members, that the information it can obtain relating to these members, however important in influencing its action, is necessarily meagre and defective. The States, themselves, paramount within their respective limits, by their legislative provisions, official collections and reports, can only supply the defect, in any degree worthy of the subject, and were they but to move conjointly in the matter, each organizing a Statistical Bureau, their annual reports, condensed and digested by the federal authorities, would furnish a volume of practicable and reliable statistics which no country in the world has ever excelled, and whose value would be beyond calculation.*

In this view the undersigned enclosed a copy of the circular prepared by him to the Secretary of State of each State in the Union, requesting the matter to be brought before the legislatures at an early day, in order, if possible, to secure the desired co-operation. A copy was also sent to the Commissioner of the Patent Office, at Washington, together with a report upon the organization of the Bureau, and the general statistics of Louisiana, which appears in his annual volume for 1848.

It is gratifying to reflect that Louisiana has been the first State in the Union to perceive the advantages of this system, and attempt its application. Already has her example been pointed to in terms of highest commendation and suggested for adoption. Though other States have surpassed her in the number and extent of statistical publications, she alone has made provision for a systematic and permanent office of statistics.

* Our Government is one of limited powers, and we ought to guard against their extension. It should not come down too often and too closely, and pry too much into individual action. Its theory is, to do what the States cannot do so well. But who shall be so generally informed or so capable of obtaining all the necessary information in the minutest details, in regard to the circumstances of a people, and their industry as the State itself. The compass being small, how much more accurately the investigations. The State Government is the natural and proper repository of all the facts relating to its people and it is met with no obstacles in obtaining them. The General Government, it is true, should make its digests from the State Reports, &c., &c.

In his report of January, 1848, Hon. Edmund Burke, Commissioner of Patents, remarks: "I have been informed that a bill has been introduced and is now pending in the Legislature of Louisiana, providing for the organization and establishment of a BUREAU OF STATISTICS. It is ardently hoped that the measure may be carried, *and that the example which will be thus set by Louisiana*, resulting from an enlightened view of the importance of her great interests, agricultural and commercial, *will be speedily followed by other States of the Union*—all have industrial interests of sufficient importance to justify the establishment of such a Bureau in their respective governments." In the volume for 1849, language still stronger is used by the Commissioner. "In the pursuit of its statistical investigations, this office has keenly felt the want of means for obtaining accurate and reliable information concerning the great industrial interests of the country. No provision has been made by the General Government for obtaining such information except in relation to our foreign commerce, and but very few of the States have adopted measures for obtaining authentic information in relation to these industrial interests. *Massachusetts and Louisiana are in advance of most other States* in their legislation upon these subjects. In the former State, very full returns are obtained in short periods of a few years, if not annually, of her industry and resources; and in the latter a BUREAU OF STATISTICS has been established, etc., etc. A most interesting view of the vast resources of this great Republic would be annually exhibited, if all the States should follow the example of Louisiana and Massachusetts. The statesman and legislator, to whom the people commit the destinies of their common country, would then have at their hands ample material to aid them in the intelligent discharge of their momentous and responsible duties, without which they are like blind men feeling their way in the dark."

A special committee of the Legislature of South Carolina, in the session of 1848, after having ably shown, in a variety of instances, how little information existed, in regard to the resources of that State, declare, "There are facts and considerations which, properly exhibited, would prove the necessity of providing some such organization, as would lead to a correct understanding of these important matters; and the insufficiency of the matters here presented, only serves to show conclusively, that we have been heretofore neglectful of those means of information which are calculated to elicit correct apprehensions of our advantages and duties. We know not how strong we are at some points, and how weak we are at others. The appointment of such a committee, (*i. e.* on commerce, agriculture and mechanics,) will soon lead to the establishment of an efficient

BUREAU OF STATISTICS, which will be the means of collecting and disseminating statistical information touching all the interests of the State, of the most valuable kind."

Governor Seabrook in his Message of December last to the Legislature of the same State, says, "To ascertain with correctness the resources of a country which a beneficent Being has so prodigally endowed, is among the paramount duties of the representatives of the people. Their development and improvement, when ascertained, might properly be entrusted to the people themselves.

"As inseparable from the enterprise, should the wisdom of the Legislature determine to prosecute it, I recommend the careful collection of STATISTICAL INFORMATION on all the branches of industry. by the possession of facts and materials, lucidly arranged and methodised, we shall be furnished with complete data as to the present state of the population, white and colored; concerning agriculture, commerce, navigation, manufactures, trade, finance, health, and need of whatever may be interesting or instructive to our citizen and their rulers. Under our political organization, and in the condition of society which the Southern States exhibit, the value of this knowledge will soon become manifest and duly estimated. It will tend materially to facilitate many of the most important duties of the public functionary; enable the Legislature to adjust and regulate the various interests of society, and to reduce a chaos of details, on matters requiring their action, into order and system. Nor will the people themselves be less benefitted. To know all that concerns the land of their birth, is a matter of pride and deep interest."

The suggestions of the Governor are, we understand, soon to be carried out, and a number of distinguished citizens of the State have had the subject in consideration, and are by correspondence, &c., devising the best method to ensure success. The State has already, by a handsome appropriation secured the publication of the reports of her central agricultural society in one large volume, embracing a vast amount of information relating to the staples of cotton, rice and corn, the negro population, negro laws, soils, minerals, manures, etc., etc.

In the Legislature of Rhode Island, now in session, a memorial was referred to a select committee, but a few days ago, requesting the appointment of a SUPERINTENDENT OF STATISTICS, with a suitable salary, whose duty it shall be to collect all the information possible, relative to the population, the agricultural and other products of the State, its resources of every description, the commerce of the State with sister States and foreign countries, the nature and value thereof, the mechanic arts and manufactures, public educa-

tion, religion, public health, and such other information as may, from time to time, be required of him, having a bearing upon the industrial and progressive history of the State. The author of the measure in a letter to the undersigned, compliments in handsome terms the action of Louisiana, and adds that Rhode Island will undoubtedly co-operate.

Massachusetts is far beyond every other State in the pains which she takes to preserve even the most minor particulars relating to her population and industry. It is to this that we may attribute in a degree the rapid advances of that commonwealth, and her course should serve to guide each of her sisters. She appropriates, annually, large sums to the numerous agricultural associations within her limits, in aid of their premiums and publications. On the table before me are a large number of her published reports and documents, furnished kindly by the Secretary of State, at my request. A list of these will aid us in understanding the system she adopts, and perhaps stimulate our own efforts.

No. 1.—*Statistics of the condition and products of certain branches of industry, in Massachusetts.* This is a volume of 400 closely printed pages, mostly figures, published in 1845, prepared from the returns of the assessors, who were provided with blanks by the Secretary of State. This volume is admirably complete, and is expected to be followed up at short periods by similar publications.

No. 2.—*Abstract of the Returns of Agricultural Societies.* A volume of 160 pages made up from the returns of all the Agricultural Societies in the State, who, as a condition precedent to the receipt of the bounty allowed, must report *annually* the amount expended by them, premiums allowed, reports of committees, names of officers, addresses delivered, etc., etc.

No. 3.—*Abstract of Massachusetts School Returns*, containing 336 pages, and published annually by the Secretary of State. This volume was digested by the Hon. Horace Mann from the reports of the School Committees in all the 309 towns of the State, which amounted in manuscript, as he says, to 5,500 closely written pages, and is very full upon even the merest details of her education system.

No. 4.—*Insurance Abstracts.* These are large pamphlets published annually by the State, giving the operations of every incorporated company, from returns required by law.

No. 5.—*Bank Abstracts.* Similar annual publications, showing the capital of every bank in the commonwealth, circulation, profits, debts, deposits, resources, dividends, etc.

No. 6.—*Annual Reports of all Rail Road Corporations.*

No. 7.—*Annual Reports of Lunatic Asylum.*

No. 8.—*Annual Reports, Births, Marriages, and Deaths.*

These are volumes of 125 to 150 pages each, and are prepared with great care from the returns made by the Clerk, etc., in each of the towns in the State. Nothing like this is found in any other State of the Union, and the general deductions made from the tables have high influence in the regulation of life and society.*

Many of our large cities have been equally liberal in the documents prepared and published, showing the progress and pursuits of their population. Prominent among these have been, Boston, New York, and Charleston, which have contributed each large volumes of statistics, so condensed and presented, as to show every thing that could be desired in every department, and to afford the highest and best evidence of the actual condition of the people. Nothing could be more complete and admirable than these volumes. They furnish as it were, a map of the operations of a city from the earliest period, down to the moment that we examine them. Should it not be hoped that other cities, and New Orleans in particular, the second important commercially in the Union, will provide for similar volumes, by public appropriations. It affords me great pleasure to say, that a movement has already been made for the purpose by Mr. Jarvis, a member of the General Council.

Since undertaking the duties of this office, the undersigned has been addressed from many quarters of the Union, in regard to its organization, and has answered numerous communications soliciting information concerning the industry and resources of the State. To the National Census Board he addressed, through the public prints, a series of letters, commenting upon a proposed innovation

* In the last report Mr. Shattuck quotes from the 5th Report of the Registrar-General of England.

"The census has been taken with regularity in the United States of America, but abstracts of the Register of deaths have only been published by the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and some of the more advanced towns. No correct life table can therefore be framed for the population of America, until they adopt, in addition to the census, the system of Registration which exists in European States. Since the English Life Table has now been framed from the necessary data, I venture to express a hope, that the facts may be collected and abstracted, from which Life Tables for other nations can be constructed. A comparison of the duration of successive generations in England, France, Prussia, Austria, Russia, America, and other States, would throw much light on the physical condition of the respective populations, and suggest to scientific and benevolent individuals in every country, and to the government, many ways of diminishing the sufferings, and ameliorating the health and condition of the people; for the longer life of a nation denotes more than it does in an individual—a happier life—a life more exempt from sickness and infirmity—a life of greater energy and industry, of greater experience and wisdom. By these comparisons, a noble national emulation might be excited; and rival nations would read of sickness diminished, deformity banished, life saved—of victories over death and the grave—with as much enthusiasm as of victories over each other's armies in the field; and the triumph of one would not be the humiliation of the other; for in his contention none could lose territory, or honor, or blood, but all would gain strength."

upon the accustomed method of obtaining the Census, and furnishing a variety of suggestions and data relating to the State of Louisiana, and to the general interests of the country. These letters drew but a response from the Board, and it is believed were not without influence, in producing a change of plan, and securing for the South, a system likely, in the result, to prove much more advantageous than the one originally contemplated.*

Not among the least important duties of the Bureau is that of replying to the continued application of State and federal officers for information upon particular branches of industry, and particular institutions, &c., existing among us; and in preparing, from time to time, such tabular exhibits of resources, revenue, expenditures, &c., as may be required by either branch of the Legislature. It is clear that these duties should be charged upon a special office.†

* CENSUS LETTERS.—These letters discussed elaborately the following subjects:—Plan of Census enumerations, mode of preparing blanks, whether special blanks applicable to the several States, how far the South is interested in these blanks, population of Louisiana, employment population, number insane, deaf and dumb, educated and uneducated in the State, investment of capital in Louisiana, annual product of industry, capital invested in sugar industry, lands and levees in Louisiana, importance of statistical bureaus, errors in the census enumerations, and mode of amendment, wages of labor, cost of transportation, internal improvements, omissions in previous censuses, population of Russia and United States contrasted, statistics, of population, history of census enumerations, analysis of American censuses, pauperism in the United States, population of native and foreign birth, education in the United States, at the South, vital statistics, or, statistics births, marriages and deaths, importance of such data, experience of European nations, &c., &c. The references to all these matters were necessarily brief. In return, the Census Board thus expresses itself: “Were the board furnished with letters, equally satisfactory, from each State in the Union, it would be much better able than it now is, to arrive at satisfactory determinations, &c.. The importance of Bureaus of statistics for the several States, and a general bureau of statistics at the seat of government is manifest to the mind of every individual, &c. It is certainly complimentary to the State of Louisiana, that she has been the first to establish a regular office of statistics, &c. The official organ also noticed the series of letters, as follows:—“But apart from their strictures upon the plan of varied blanks, the articles derived importance from the amount of reliable statistical information they contained of the productions and resources of the South, and especially of that portion of it embraced in the valley of the lower Mississippi. Had the invitation of the board, which were extensively circulated in all the States and Territories, soliciting information upon every branch of production, mineral and other resources peculiar to each section of the Union, been generally responded to in the same spirit and with the knowledge displayed in these communications, the plan that is condemned would have been much easier of satisfactory execution. Had the other States bureaus of statistics, with a chief as competent and willing to advance the ends aimed at in making a census as Louisiana possesses, the general object of the board would have been greatly promoted.”

† A letter from the commissioner of patents, now filed in the Bureau furnishes an example. To answer this long and patient investigation is needed and will be given. The Commissioner says, “Endeavoring to trace up the history of American inventions, and supposing that interesting facts may be hidden in the archives of the various States, particularly in the records of patents, of which some have been known to have been granted under colonial rule, and others by more or less of the States previous to their conceding the right to the general government, I respectfully request to be furnished with copies of any such documents,” &c., &c.

The first purpose to be accomplished by the Bureau, should undoubtedly be the preparation and publication of an elaborate report, extending back, from the earliest settlement of the State, and including every particular relative to its population and wealth. Such a report the undersigned has had in view, having collected, and being still engaged in collecting, a variety of information for the purpose, from every available and reliable source—correspondencies, official documents and reports, historical works, local records, files of newspapers, &c.

STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA,

CONTRASTING EACH PERIOD OF HER GROWTH, AND COMPARING THE RESULTS WITH THOSE
PRESENTED BY THE OTHER STATES OF THE UNION.

PART I.—TERRITORY AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Date of discovery and settlement—origin and growth of parishes, geographical descriptions and statistics of rivers, mountains, islands, sea coasts, lakes, etc.; geological structure, minerals, forests, natural products; public lands and land system; lands in cultivation; arable lands, pastures etc; value of lands and productiveness in different sections; lands capable of reclamation; navigation of rivers and lakes, character of harbors, climates, meteorological phenomena and diseases; internal improvements, railroads, canals, turnpikes, bridges, levees and levee system, crevasses, etc.; facilities of communication, statistics of freights, passages, length of routes, etc.; post roads and post offices, etc.

PART II.—POPULATION.

Growth of population from settlement—colonial population; analysis of census 1800, census 1810, census 1820, census 1830, census 1840, census 1850: comparison of all the censuses; insane, idiots, deaf, dumb, blind, proportion of sexes, marriages, births, deaths, old, young, productive, unproductive, paupers; indians, slave and free negro population; emigrants; foreign, naturalized and native population compared; proportion native and foreign origin; employments of population, agricultural, manufacturing, commercial; physical condition people, wages, proportion wealth, relative advances different classes population; education, professions, colleges, schools, societies, libraries, newspapers, charities, religious sects, statistics of education; proportion educated at home and abroad, expenses of education, school returns and appropriations, etc; the militia—pensions, taxes, revenues, expenditures, debt; representation in Congress; density of population; crimes, punishments, penitentiaries, condition of people as compared with other periods and States, etc.

PART III.—INDUSTRY.

CHAPTER I.—AGRICULTURE: growth of agriculture—improvements in, agricultural staples with their progressive increase; statistics of all agricultural products, capital and profits in agriculture, produce of forests, cattle, stock, wool, poultry, agricultural societies and publications, application manures, agricultural machinery, probable new products, condition of agricultural population, etc

CHAPTER II.—MANUFACTURES: character of manufactures, statistics of all branches of manufactures, comparative progress of manufactures, capital in manufactures, revenue from, per cent, profit and wages, home manufactures consumed or exported, consumption foreign manufactures, manufactures capable of being introduced.

CHAPTER III.—COMMERCE: Imports and exports, before the purchase in value, quantity and kind; imports, exports, etc., from the purchase to 1812, from 1812 to 1850, in value, quantity and kind; progress of trade with each contemporary State or dependency, in value, quantity and kind; statistics of all commercial commodities; customs, port and quarantine regulations; chambers of commerce; conflicting mercantile systems of the States; bankrupt system; money, banks; trade and commerce several cities, growth of cities; navigation, light houses; new proposed markets, comparison with other States.

CHAPTER IV.—MISCELLANEOUS: Including a digest of the back reports of the various State offices—auditors, treasurers, engineers, land offices, etc, general statistics, &c.

This Report which will occupy a volume of three hundred closely printed pages, a large part being tabular work, on the plan of the Massachusetts's documents, is respectfully suggested to the legislature for publication. In preparing it, the undersigned would adopt the foregoing plan, adhering as closely to it in the details as possible, and neglecting no head upon which there shall be any chance of obtaining reliable data.

There is something peculiar in the origin and progress of the population of Louisiana, made up as it is from such a mass of heterogenous sources, and living to so great an extent without amalgamation, which distinguishes it from every other State. It becomes us, as far as possible to collect the fleeting traditions of this population, and to condense for ready reference whatever facts may be illustrative of its conditions and prospects. The liveliest interest must attach to the subject, viewed in whatever light we please.

In discussing the soils, minerals, natural products, etc., of the State, we are met almost at the first step by the criminal deficiency of information which exists among our citizens.

Scientific surveys of the State, it is true, were conducted a few years ago by gentlemen, liberally compensated by the Legislature, but the manuscript reports from the culpable negligence or carelessness of parties, it is difficult to say who, are no where to be found among our archives. It is impossible to tell how much the State may have lost, or how far the existence at that time of an office of the character of this Bureau would have protected against the contingency. At the present moment we know literally nothing of the geology of the State.

It is evidently too late now to discuss the merits of geological explorations. They have been ordered by a large number of the States of the Union, and are becoming every year more frequent and thorough. A bill is now pending before Congress, providing that a portion of the public lands within the States be appropriated for this purpose. The facts elicited in the prosecution of such surveys are essential to the art of mining, to the construction of roads, canals, harbors, buildings and to the improvement of agriculture. In this last particular they are chiefly valuable. Soils consist of organic and inorganic ingredients—the first giving rise to fertility, and the last being indispensable in all improvements. These inorganic compounds, whether clay, lime, silicious earths, magnesia, salts of iron, manganese, potash, soda, etc., etc., wherever greatly deficient, must be supplied, and to do this a knowledge of their nature and character becomes necessary. To no other science in so high a degree is agriculture indebted for its advances as to geology. Its successful investigation in the United States was

first begun in 1807 by Mr. McClure. In 1814 DeWitt Clinton urged in New York a geological, mineralogical, botanical, zoological, and agricultural survey, which has since been effected, and the results published in a magnificent series of quarto volumes.—North Carolina has the merit of having sent the first geologist into the field—Professor Olmstead, whose report was prepared in 1825, South Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, and many other States, have followed the example, and the science is now being introduced into the leading Colleges and Universities of the country.

It is worthy of consideration, whether Louisiana may not have it in her power, in making provision at any future time for the permanent organization and establishment of her new University, to perfect a knowledge of the State. In any endowment made to the institution, a stipulation might be inserted that the professors of geology and the other natural sciences, in the long vacations so necessary in this climate, be required occasionally to traverse the State, presenting the results of their explorations in regular systematic reports. The plan is entirely practicable, and whilst it would increase the value and efficacy of the institution, would confer incalculable advantages upon the State at large. To the University should belong these duties ; and it would be but carrying out the principle now urged upon Congress, if a considerable part of the public lands lately donated to the State should, after being reclaimed, if they ever are, be set apart as a fund for the performance of this work, (including observations upon the general hydrography of the State,) and for the general interests of the University.

In many States of the Union, a multitude of facts, concerning the soil, traditions, localities, and population are brought to light and published through the operation of Historical, Statistical, and other Societies, scarcely one of which we have in Louisiana. Twelve years ago, it is true, a few of our citizens formed an historical association, which fell into decay, and was revived within the last three years, by electing Judge Martin to the Presidency, and afterwards Judge Bullard. The practical operations of this society have been chiefly in the collection of books, etc., in which it has been aided by the Legislature, with a view to future usefulness. One of the members, John Perkins, Esq., of New Orleans, now in Europe, in the most liberal and intelligent spirit, has had a digest made in three volumes, two of which have been received, of all the documents contained in the various departments of France relating to Louisiana, and donated it to the State for the use of the Society. In a letter to the undersigned, on forwarding the first volume, he says: "I have presented through you to the Society, a summary of our history, embraced in one large quarto volume of

500 pages, reaching down to 1710. I must ask your especial examination of this volume, for I believe it will be found to contain matter of much interest that has never yet been published. The compilation of the rest of the documents is progressing, and I believe that by next fall the State will be in possession of a complete index to all the papers in any of the French archives pertaining to our history." The full return of Mr. Perkins's labors will be found in the appendix to this report,—See appendix 2.*

In investigating the numerous topics connected with population our progress is almost entirely impeded by the total neglect of nearly every species of record existing among us. Careless, as has been our course in regard to the statistics of wealth, we have been infinitely more careless in those that pertain to life and mortality. In vain has the importance of a registration system of births, mar-

* HISTORICAL SOCIETIES should meet with encouragement in every State. By their correspondence, by their committees, by the spirit which they infuse, by the interrogatories which they put to every class of society, they rescue from oblivion the precious results of the past in all the departments of life. They collect them—they combine them—they preserve them, and hand them down to succeeding generations, consistent records in the stead of vague traditions. The Historical Society of Massachusetts has published 8 volumes, of Rhode Island 5 volumes, Connecticut 6, New York 8 or 10, Pennsylvania 5, Georgia 2 volumes. There are also Societies in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, &c., &c., to which add as somewhat kindred, the Antiquarian American Society, National Institute, Smithsonian Institute, &c. The *Louisiana Historical Society* has in preparation a volume of proceedings, &c., but has published nothing. Many donations of books &c., have been made to it by Congress and the State Legislature. It has yet no hall, nor regular meetings. This Society should press the collection of information abroad, relative to the early history of the State, as has been done successfully by other Societies, particularly those of New York, Georgia, and Massachusetts. The Legislature has appropriated \$2,000 for a search of Spanish records now being conducted and appropriated; about \$1,000 more for a volume of transcripts brought over from France by one of our citizens. Mr. Forstall made some years ago, and published an index of the most important French papers (Reprinted in *Commercial Review* for 1846). Mr. Perkins, Secretary of the Historical Society, at his own private expense, which was very considerable, as we have remarked above, has sent over several large volumes in manuscript, being an index of all the papers of every kind relating to the State in any of the offices or libraries of the French government, and estimates that complete transcripts of the whole could be had for about \$6,000. As our State advances, it will, perhaps, be deemed expedient to bring over these papers. Indeed, this should be their depository.

Two years ago, Mr. Vattermere, an intelligent and philanthropic foreigner, presented to the Historical Society, and to the State, many valuable works relating to France, its agriculture, commerce, manufactures. The Governor called attention to this donation, but it has never been met with any appropriate return. As it is well known that Mr. Vattermere is devoting his life to the great purpose of *promoting exchanges of publications between the nations of the world*, thus increasing their comity, and has brought over and distributed many thousand volumes among the different States, taking back, perhaps, as many in donations from these States. It becomes us not to be behind hand in a liberal co-operation. It is, therefore, suggested that the Legislature order an appropriation of a few hundred dollars to be expended by the Secretary of State in the purchase of works relating to Louisiana, or her industry, and a donation of duplicates of some of our publications for the purpose of reciprocating, and of promoting Mr. Vattermere's agency. A small sum would also be necessary to reimburse the expenses of that gentleman.

riages and deaths, been pressed by Statisticians in every part of the Union, by committees of medical associations, by the late National and State Medical Convention, &c. The public mind will not be brought to an appreciation of its value and influence. Massachusetts still remains the only State in the Union which has *successfully* set up such a system, in imitation of Great Britain and others of the more advanced European powers. Several of our States have evinced a disposition to be active, and New York, it is believed, has even passed a registration law. In Louisiana, at different periods, we have had enactment upon enactment. That of 1811 makes the parish judges, recorders, with a special recorder in New Orleans. The act of 1819 fixes a penalty for not recording in New Orleans. There have been several other legislative provisions, but what have been the practical results of the whole? *

* VITAL STATISTICS AND REGISTRATION LAWS.—Even the little that our registration laws have effected is not in an available form. There may be much of value scattered through the records of the late parish judges. The registrar at New Orleans preserves many volumes, but to digest anything of value from them would require very great labor. In the office of the Charity Hospital, Board of Health, Parish Churches, &c., exist an immense amount of information, useless in its present shape, but capable of being generalized. So indeed as to other offices. In most of the Northern States are published annual statements of commitments, crimes, punishments, vagrancy, pauperism, digested from the returns of Jails, Prisons, Penitentiaries, Courts of Justice, &c. What a volume of light do these shed upon the condition of a people, and what important improvements suggest. The same remark of public hygiene. We have no meteorological observations by public authority, though there are tables in existence, kept in various parts of the State by private individuals, running back for many years from which much might be condensed. Some years ago Dr. Barton suggested a medical commission to report upon the sanitary condition of every part of the State, in order to correct many of the erroneous impressions afloat, and lead to an amelioration of the public health, so infinitely more important than the public wealth. It was then recommended to be made a part of the duty of the Surgeon-General, of the State, to prepare such a report. In the establishment of a perfect registration system of births, marriages, and deaths, Great Britain and Massachusetts have taken the precedence of all other governments. The Registrar-General of the former has published seven or eight large volumes, which should be obtained for our State library; and the Secretary of the latter has published voluminous systematical returns already referred to, annually, since 1841 or 2. The late medical convention of the United States memorialized Congress, and the State government on the subject. The medical convention of South Carolina, and Louisiana, have ordered a similar memorial.

Before preparing this report the undersigned addressed a letter to Dr. E. N. Barton, of New Orleans, long known among us for his devotion to Vital Statistics, and received in reply a letter, from which, for their great interest, he begs leave to extract the following passages:

"There can be no known advancement without we are first made acquainted with our actual condition it is evident. All this has been so eminently proved in relation to this city, that I only need to hint a few of the facts to your intelligence and the whole truth will start from the canvass in the most glaring colors: The United States census takers for 1840 gave us a population of about 27,000 more than we actually had, but as the mortality was not added in a similar ratio, it made us by the Bobadil method of computation, the healthiest city in the Union. And some of our writers have since calculated

It is scarcely necessary to remark that our *registration system* has been entirely inoperative for any of the purposes advocated by vital economists. Louisiana is peculiarly interested in health and mortuary statistics, as it is believed that no State in the Union has suffered more from erroneous impressions, and misrepresentations that have gone abroad, which we ourselves have not the means to correct. Were the facts even against us, a faithful exhibit of them would tend in the result to improve our sanitary condition. The experience of all countries preserving such records, shows a mark-

our mortality as one in fifty-eight, a ratio of salubrity far exceeding any city in America, and probably in the world! while our actual mortality is more than double that. You see then that a misstatement is as bad—nay, worse—than none, for here is an *official statement* presumed to be entitled to confidence from which deductions have been drawn off our actual situation; had the *facts* been known and constantly so for thirty or forty years back of the real mortality of this city, and you know how much I have labored to procure them for the last fifteen years, it would be a poor compliment to this intelligent people to suppose that the causes of that mortality would not long since have been investigated—pointed out and remedied, and the city would now be in the enjoyment of the salubrity it only had through a fiction.”

“The importance of a knowledge of the health of a community is only second to the health itself. The amount of information from reliable sources that exists upon this subject in America is exceedingly small—in fact, out of the large cities—Massachusetts excepted, and presently New York—there are no statistics of the sanitary state of the country any where to be found, excepting detached monographs in the medical journals; nothing really but prejudiced assertion; and this assertion is *pro* and *con*, either of them widely separated from the truth.”

“The general information in relation to the health of particular sections of our Union is entitled to very little reliance—the specific facts which properly claim confidence do not exist, and it will doubtless be a long time before the States will authorize them. I stated above that such information was confined to the large cities. I might have added to the large cities of the sea-board. In the West—in Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, the interior everywhere—there are, so far as I have been able to ascertain, by actual visits and an extensive correspondence and inquiry, no records at all! As to the entire South, there are very few. In Maryland one, (in Baltimore,) throughout Virginia one only, (at Norfolk,) in the Carolinas one, (and an excellent one, at Charleston,) in Georgia one, (at Savannah,) in Alabama one, (at Mobile,) in Louisiana one, (at New Orleans,) in Mississippi one, (at Natchez,)—in their interiors, none! None in the entire West, so far as I have been able to ascertain.”

“The importance of a registry law to a political community may be compared to the value to an individual knowing the state of his health and of his affairs; a man who takes no note of these may be ruined before he knows it. So a body politic, that is ignorant of its condition—of a prosperous or adverse state of its affairs—of what may advance the one or remedy the state of the other—may be actually retrograding while it is supposed to be thriving, and may be suffering while in reach of all the gifts of fortune. This would be the more obvious if this was the general belief throughout the world; but the state of foreign and conterminous countries are constantly being made known, constituting statistical information: the wants and the sources of supply are constantly being published, and the balance struck:—in fact, the limit to the advantages of a people becoming acquainted with their condition, is about as boundless as the wants of man, for thus only can it be bettered, (about as strong a feeling in America as in any other,) and some may extend it to all human knowledge, and a reference to the relative condition of nations will show that their prosperous or adverse condition, indeed, their elevation in the scale of intelligence is in a great measure dependent upon an enlightened knowledge of their own condition and wants, and of those of other parts of the world whence they may supply their wants.”

“This kind of knowledge of our actual condition, and the short step resulting to the development of our capacity, is more wanting in the South than in any part of our widely

amelioration of society, diminution of disease, and extension of the average period of life. The physical condition of man has improved in equal pace, with a knowledge of the causes affecting him, and their degree of intenseness in different localities. There can be no question either, that "the white, black, and other races, present peculiar, moral, and physical characters, which should not be overlooked by the statesman, whose legitimate aim can only be the prosperity and happiness of all nations." We are strikingly deficient in knowledge of the black and colored population, although living among us for nearly three hundred years. Investigations, notwithstanding their importance, have never been made in this field, until within a very few years. Is it true that the negro is long

extended country. And how much has she lost and is losing politically, and in every element of prosperity, from a want of a suitable knowledge of her condition and capacity? With the best climate, the richest soil, the finest water power, and mineral wealth inexhaustible, she constantly sees her poorer and less advantageously situated sisters in the inhospitable climates of the North, far outstripping her in every element of wealth, prosperity and power. This is a sacred duty we owe to ourselves to aid in every way to develop our resources, to exhibit the true sanitary condition of our country, and the immense advantages the South offers to the emigrant to add his stores to ours, and with united industry to make her fair fields the very garden of the confederacy. One of the most important is to remove the bugbear in relation to the effect of the climate on health, the actual facts of the ratio of death to population, the average of death and the small portion of time embraced in the confinement of sickness in the interior of this State would stagger credulity itself, as might be made apparent, were this the place to publish some tabular statements, I have prepared (for another purpose) to exhibit the comparative health and longevity of our people and the larger proportion of population we possess of the productive age than of any country known."

"Various parts of the United States are avoided on account of supposed insalubrity, as part of this State, when it is now well known to us that those very portions are amongst the healthiest in the Union. And again, all agricultural countries are sickly when first opened and settled, and become healthy soon after the country becomes cleared, cultivated and subdued to the purposes of man. Such is eminently the fact with regard to the long-settled parts of the Southern States, while countries and cities supposed to be healthy have been found by examination and statistical records to be far the reverse. Such has been found to be the fact with Liverpool, which was deemed one of the healthiest towns in England before its real condition was made known through the registration laws, when it was actually found to be one of the most sickly! The alarm was sounded and an immediate examination instituted *into the cause*, when it was ascertained that about 20,000 of its population lived more like reptiles than human beings—burrowing in the ground in damp, dirty, dark cellars, opening into blind alleys, &c., and the mortality was about one in seventeen or eighteen, I think. A reform was at once instituted, with a gain in average life, in a few years, of about ten years. Similar facts have occurred in various parts of England, and also in Massachusetts."

"But this is not all. Various parts of our widely extended country have their special liabilities to particular forms of disease. Individuals and their families have also their predispositions to special affections. These peculiarities can be worn out and gotten rid of entirely by removing from one part where they are very liable to occur, and do produce great mortality, to other portions where they are almost unknown. For instance, there are some portions of our country where pulmonary affections are very rare, and particularly that *opprobria medicorum*, consumption, and other portions where they take off near twenty-five per cent. of the entire mortality. A knowledge of this fact is of the last importance to individuals and families who have inherited the phthysical diathesis, and so of many other forms of disease which I need not specify. Then, again, countries change in their liabilities to particular diseases, and these facts can only be made known through accurate records worthy of confidence, at successive periods."

lived at the South, and the reverse at the North, whilst the mulatto is always short lived, and never prolific? Is not the real merit of the slave question involved in the *physical characteristics* of the races, and in discussing it, are not the facts of births, average lives, diseases, longevity, deaths, increase, vital force, &c., respectively at the North and the South in freedom or in slavery, equally if not more important and decisive than the admonitions of St. Paul, or the laws of Moses? We want facts, full, minute and reliable, upon every feature of this subject?

In these exciting times when fanaticism run riot, endangers the existence of the Union, it becomes the South to be furnished with a reason for her faith. We have almost universally neglected the statistics of our negro population. The North, so minute in other respects, is silent here. Can we tell from their tables how far freedom proves favorable to the vitality, morals, or physical comfort of the negro? Is there not reason to believe, from the little we are allowed to know, that amid all the cant of universal freedom he is there short-lived, vicious, depraved, and wretched in the last degree? On the other hand, under slave laws, is not the very reverse in every respect exhibited. We call again for facts, and they are within our reach. The most overwhelming evidence is in the power of the South, with an ordinary degree of pains. It is time to go further into these matters than mere general statements. "I think we may safely conclude," says Dr. Nott, of Mobile, "that the Negro attains his greatest perfection, physical and moral, and also his greatest longevity in a state of slavery. The colored population of Charleston show not only a lower rate of mortality than any laboring class of any country, but a lower mortality than the aggregate population, including nobility of any country in Europe, &c., &c." Again, "I have said enough to make apparent the paramount importance of negro statistics. If the blacks are intellectually inferior to the whites—if the whites are deteriorated by amalgamation with the blacks—if the longevity and physical perfection of the mixed race is below that of either of the pure races, and if the negro is by nature unfit for self-government; these are grave matters for consideration." "Perhaps," says Dr. Ginor, physician, in charge of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, "the most striking disproportion is between the white and colored deaths. If my experience, &c., justify, I would say without hesitation it is owing entirely to the utter neglect by the latter of the necessary means of preserving health, extreme sensuality, &c. This opinion I believe myself in possession of sufficient facts to substantiate." These are but facts from a volume of testimony.*

* In a very late Report of the Prison Society, published in the Philadelphia Ledger, we learn, in that City, that an analysis of tables, kept for nineteen years, proves a diffe-

A history of the education system of Louisiana would be pregnant with much instruction. We have not been deficient in liberality, and yet the fruits of all our efforts are altogether unsubstantial. How many prominent Louisianians have ever been educated at home, though upon schools and colleges the State has expended untold thousands? Should we not have some record of this history the extent of these appropriations, and some approximations to the actual results? Let us preserve, too, in figures the workings of our new system in digested tables from the annual reports of the State Superintendent. It can only be made popular with the people by disseminating knowledge in regard to its workings.

The agriculture of Louisiana is almost her chief reliance and source of opulence. In proportion to population the total of her annual crop exceeds that of any State of the Union, and she is, perhaps, the richest of them all. The statistical results of this agriculture must be very important, involving all the considerations of products, prices, and profits, how far they have influenced each other, and how far labor has been by the advancement of science rendered more and more productive. Such tables should go back, very far, marking the advent and progress of new staples, and the decline and abandonment of old ones. There has been an occasional publication from a private source, showing in the particular of sugar, the individual and aggregate crops, which, with all its defects is very valuable. The extent of the cotton crop is difficult to be inferred without much patient calculation, and few can make a tolerable approximation. It is important to know how far sugar is substituting, or is likely to substitute cotton. We have rice lands in almost unlimited extent, capable of rivaling those of Carolina, and their yield is even now considerable. If the State should diversify her industry, here is a source, almost unheeded, of future wealth. Useful facts could readily be embodied. Again, tabular statements of the expense in maintaining slaves, the relative production and cost of slave and free labor, the value of slaves at different periods, their increase, &c., have a high degree of interest. So also of the value of lands, in different sections of the

rence of 13.14 in the hundred, between the deaths of whites and colored inmates of prisons, &c., &c. In other words there are four blacks to one white that die in prison, and in the community not quite two to one. "It is," says Dr. Nott, in his able lectures on the Physical History of Man, "capable of demonstration, that in all our Atlantic and North Western States, the mulattoes are less prolific, less hardy, shorter lived, more liable to premature births, and are in every respect physically inferior to either the pure whites or blacks, and further that the mulattoes descended from the pure white and black races are true hybrids, which would become extinct if left alone to propagate among themselves, &c., &c. When we come further South, as at Pensacola, Mobile, and New Orleans, this law becomes much modified, and we find a class of mulattoes who are long lived, more hardy, more prolific, and in every respect much superior to those of the North.—These are of the mixed negroes and Celtic blood," &c.

State, and their productiveness, swamp lands, lands in cultivation or unreclaimed, public lands and their administration, &c. Then there are a multitude of facts, in regard to the extent and cost of the levee system, the loss by crevasses and their periods, the operations, as far back as can be had, of the internal improvement system of the State, which has taken place already among its most costly and cumbrous machinery, and bids fair to play even a more important part in the future.*

Had Louisiana, like most of her sister States, agricultural associations, it would be easy from their reports and documents to cull a greater part of the information suggested. The reports of such societies in Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, &c., are voluminous and invaluable. Our own citizens have most unfortunately never attained to any high appreciation of the results to be accomplished by this means. We had, indeed, once an agricultural farm, whose history would be worthy of narration, which fell, as it were still-born, and without results. The enterprising gentlemen of Baton Rouge have also established two agricultural societies in their midst, falling successively into decay. The last of them celebrated four anniversaries, and distributed premiums to the State at large at several highly interesting mechanical and agricultural fairs. The addresses, reports, &c., of this society have been published. The Legislature extended a fostering hand in its aid.

* **LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE.**—The SUGAR industry is every year becoming more considerable in Louisiana, and is extending through the other Southern States. How far greater can this crop be stimulated, and under what discouragements? We call it a forced crop, but our skill in machinery, and enlightened management have compensated much. It is but a few years since science has been applied, and its strides have been amazing. We only now begin to enquire the conditions of prosecuting successfully this industry. Planters seek for light from every source, and communicate their information freely. Can we compete with the West Indies, with a free trade system, and with our highest improvements for the whole demand of the Union, and in foreign markets? What are the limits of this supply and demand? Dr. Evans suggests to the planters preservation of notes upon many points, to which we add others of our own, "Chemical character of soil," "Mode of cultivation pursued." "Nature and quality of manure." "Weight of canes per acre." "Their description, whether plants, rattoos, &c., age, &c." "Quantity of juice expressed." "Density of that fluid and other peculiarities." "Amount of sugar and molasses obtained." "Kind of force employed." "Kind and consumption of fuel." "Expense of machinery and improvements." "Results in drainage." "Physical condition and vitality of slaves." "Expense of maintenance." "food, clothing, &c." "Products," &c.

Millions of dollars are lost to the South from the impossibility of obtaining reliable information about the Cotton crops. Presumptions will take the highest figure in a doubt, and the buyers control the price. Sales are effected before the full effect of deficiency in a short crop can be known and have an influence. It is difficult to propose a remedy but such may possibly be devised. In fact, the whole cotton interest has been badly understood, and the notions of the wisest prove grossly wrong. Sufficient facts have not been observed and recorded. The capacity to produce has been esteemed unlimited—the disposition and ability to consume limited. The cry of over-production went out of course, and intelligent men talked of convening the planters to reduce the supply. How much have such opinions depressed the industry? Had the facts been carefully compared and preserved, it would have been seen the average producing power is limited—*exceeding*—

Is it not probable that the prosecution of the duties of this Bureau, and its publications will stimulate the re-organization of the society upon a basis which shall be commensurate with the wants of the whole State, and would not Baton Rouge, now the capital, be much more appropriate for the meetings of such an association, which every other year could be held during the session of the Legislature? The State might, even with propriety, grant a hall for its use, and by small appropriations after the fashion of Massachusetts, to be expended in the publication of proceedings and reports, encourage not only the labors of the central society, but the establishment of subordinate ones in the different parishes. First among the interests to which Government should devote its fostering care, is Agriculture. It is the breast, said the celebrated Sully, whence the State derives support and nourishment. Can it be wondered then, that enthusiasts everywhere, are pressing upon Congress the establishment of an agricultural department, should even federal powers be transcended by it.*

ly limited—that the climax has been, perhaps, reached, estimating the working force to be used, and the appropriate lands, and that the demand is at least equal, and very likely greater than this limit. The figures for the present year, taking the world over, will show an actual and considerable deficit. Shall supply ever again overtake demand?

* AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND FAIRS.—The cause of agriculture and the arts can be promoted in no way, more effectually than by the institution of societies, shows and fairs. The turf is applauded for its influences on stock, but is there nothing for the competition and rewards of public exhibitions? Perhaps every State in the Union is in advance of Louisiana with respect to agricultural societies, and no state could derive more substantial benefit from them. The Legislature should encourage such associations, and there are ways of doing it. Even our agricultural publications, come nearly all from the north, and are of little use to us. A memorial has been sent to Congress from Maryland, praying a donation of public lands for the promotion of agriculture in the several States. Agricultural colleges are among the appropriate means. The Secretary of the Interior suggests an AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT at Washington. What the Governor of Virginia says in his last message is true of most of the States, “while Virginia has extended with great liberality assistance to education and works of improvement, she has never given to agriculture, any encouragement whatever.” Louisiana calls upon Congress to restore her degenerating cane by importations from the east, and gives a bounty to the silk grower.—Cannot her statistical Bureau, in some such way, be connected with agriculture, as to co-operate with a State Agricultural Society, and perform certain duties assigned by it? This is worthy of reflection.

The South has always been remiss in encouragement to the Mechanic arts. The splendid exhibitions made by this department of industry at the north, and particularly in New York, attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators annually. The fairs in France and England, are on a scale of great magnificence. Thus far there have been but few in the southern states. Does the genius of invention necessarily dwell at the north, or have we not crushed it by our discouragement? The late splendid fair at Charleston, which included the products of Carolina, Georgia, etc., in innumerable quantity, and most exquisite skill and finish, is a triumphant vindication of the South. Premiums were allotted in every department. The products of southern industry have even taken premiums lately at the north. In Louisiana, our fairs were on a different scale, but they should be in the metropolis, and it is not doubted, they would give a stimulus to the arts in this quarter, which would, in time, destroy our subserviency. The artisan, as well as the merchant, rules the world, and there is no better proof than the approaching fair of all nations, to be held in London, and over which, Prince Albert is to preside!

The manufactures of Louisiana, excepting sugar, which is generally classed otherwise, are the least important, almost of any State in the Union. The Government census of 1850, will again reveal this humiliating fact. It is easy to say that capital finds better investments, but this is not true, as it is even going abroad. Mechanic industry meets also with little encouragement. There is no natural reason for this state of things, and we are very far from advocating artificial stimulents in the way of government patronage. To enlighten self interest should be the aim, and that will effect the resolution. Let us know why we are in no better position in this behalf, what have been the causes contributing to our failures in almost every paste xperiment, or diminishing the number of these experiments? How comes it, that except in the State Penitentiary, we have not entered the field of cotton manufactures, when all our sister southern states and cities have been in motion, when the material is around us in bountiful profusion, and it can be demonstrated, may be worked with the greatest possible advantage, and with the largest and most reliable profits?

Our citizens perceiving this, begin to embark their capital in the operations of other States. Can a community advance to high position without diversifying its pursuits, and is there not always surplus, or unproductive capital capable of being diverted into the useful channels of manufactures? Too many facts cannot be accumulated in regard to these matters. But the other day, a movement was made, looking to the establishment of an extensive cotton factory in New Orleans, and a rice mill upon a similar scale would seem to be equally promising. It is a mistake to argue that the cost of labor will deter, when there are so many counterbalancing agencies at work. Paper mills and shoe factories are also peculiarly economical operations for a State like ours. The results of the first are almost a clear gain to the community at large, being derived from the otherwise worthless and wasted material, of every household. The cause of southern manufactures, is one of the highest of the age, and it is gratifying to see the extent to which it is pressed, without one clamor for the aid of Hercules in the struggle. This is a legitimate and proper business, and the time has perhaps come, when the southern and western states might unite in one great convention, for the purpose of extending their manufactures, upon a platform which shall not compromise or trample upon a single party principle—and for such a convention, what position more admirable than New Orleans?*

* SOUTHERN MANUFACTURES.—The facilities for manufactures of cotton enjoyed by the South, exceed that of any portion of the world. Having the material on the spot, with abundant labor, the saving in transportation and other costs, will, alone, pay handsome dividends. An intelligent writer estimates the proportionate profit of the planter and the

Louisiana is dependant upon her position for the immense commerce which is poured into her lap. The statistics of this trade are no where to be found digested, except for a few years and we must search up the files of old newspapers to get them. What, too, are the advantages of position in an age like this, compared with those of exhaustless energy and intrepidity? The East has practically levelled the mountains and made a highway to her very doors, for the teeming products of the great valley, we deemed in the day of our pride would be ours for ever by an unalterable fate. The mouth of the father of waters, commercially may be as well at Boston as at the Balize! Already his floods are tapped by each of the Atlantic cities, down almost to our very coasts, and Charleston, Savannah and Mobile enter the field of competition with their northern contemporaries, Thus is it that New Orleans has not grown with the progress of the great west in any thing, like an equal ratio. Our figures might show relatively in this point of view a *decline* of the city within the last few years! The fact should arouse the attention of the whole State. Are there not modes of counteracting these efforts of our neighbors whose results are telling with so much force upon ourselves? We are supine and attempt not one single countervailing movement. Has public spirit died in our midst and do we only await the day of the ebbing tide to go with it wheresoever it flows? If not, then shall we by studying accurately the advantages and disadvantages *intrinsically* of our markets and the course of administrative policy operating upon it favorably or adverse, be the better able to enter into open competition, maintaining every advanced point that has been gained, and marching onwards to a high and brilliant futurity. If there are errors of policy they should be amended, and let us not at the same time be indifferent to those great internal improvement movements of the age, which are to commerce, what light and heat and moisture are to the vegetable world.*

manufacturer, as follows: With three times the capital the planters' profits are less; six hundred laborers in the field do not realize as much as 275 in the factory, etc., etc. Another recommends manufactures by the cotton growers themselves, our crop being estimated at \$55,000,000 being worked up at 3 cents the pound, two yards to the pound, and nine cents the yard, making the whole cotton crop worth 18 instead of 6 cents the pound, (the price last year) and realizing \$180,000,000 instead of \$55,000,000. The machinery necessary to work up the whole crop may be had for \$50,000,000. These facts should bring us to reflect, and the more of them we can collect, and the speedier the better. A convention of cotton growers might well be called, to discuss this whole subject, and the South should spare no pains in collecting data.

* COMMERCE OF NEW ORLEANS.—Though the natural advantages of our great emporium, commanding as it does so many thousand miles of navigable waters, be greater perhaps than those of any other city upon earth, yet in the struggles of competition and the wit of man, they may be effectually neutralized and counteracted. The canal and the railroad car are brought into successful competition with the flat and the steam-boat. The power of the locomotive has scarcely been tested, but such are the rapid improvements in

Indeed the commercial spirit has been at a low ebb throughout all the south, almost from the establishment of the Federal government. Let us take Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans. Their annual exportation of agricultural products is immense. It is conducted in northern shipping and the return cargoes received at northern ports to be re-shipped again with great expense to us, who sit patiently awaiting the result. The single city of New York will import sixfold more than all of our Southern States taken together, and for our own consumption too. The South appeared once to be aroused upon the subject. Several great Conventions were held with the largest delegations. Then were made the ablest speeches, the most profound and elaborate reports, the best RESOLUTIONS in the world, but there the matter ended, and all was rest again. There are no necessary reasons for southern commercial *inferiority*. Venice, a southern city, conducted the trade of all the East and was the entrepot of the world's commerce for the main period of her history. Antiquity refutes the libel that southern latitudes are unfitted for extensive commerce. The empires of Assyria, Egypt, Media, Persia and Arabia were southern. All civilization came from the south—the Greeks and Romans were southerners. Were not all the southern Indian tribes on the discovery of America, more advanced in civilization than the northern? The great south deserves as much of our panegyric as the great west or north.*

the cheapness and efficacy of its construction and operation, that it may be doubled if in time navigation can compete even in the lowest description of product. The canals and railroads of New York, have struck the great west in its teeming midst and draw already to the Hudson from \$50 to \$75,000,000 annually, the latter figure verging very nearly upon the receipts of New Orleans. The thousand miles of Boston rail roads are burdened with the rich freights of the valley. Baltimore enters the field and Virginia will soon float in the James River, the flat boat which has been loaded near the falls of St. Antony. Meanwhile Charleston and Savannah, with the keenest interest press, their works to the Tennessee and the Mississippi at Memphis, whilst our sister of Mobile has in construction a splendid work reaching to the mouth of the Ohio. What shall be the effect of all these works in successful operation in drawing off the products of the valley from their natural channel, and how shall we provide against that day? It is common to speculate upon the future greatness and grandeur of New Orleans, with eyes blinded to the causes adversely in operation. Is this wise and prudent? Should we not rather put in play machinery similar to that of our neighbors and add to what nature has given us by all the appliances of art. It is notorious that things are left very much to their own regulation in New Orleans, and that few are interested in the permanent good of the city at the expense even of slight present inconvenience. The result is, that abuses gain in strength and the sympathies of producers are against the city. Remove the necessity that brings them here and without many and great ameliorations they are gone. It is proper to enquire into all these matters, and it is believed that with some pains and labor, instructive facts could be gleaned and presented. Again the rail-road and canal enterprises of Louisiana past and present offer a curious subject for study, and it is fitting to know, how far their fate should deter future operations. Shall our state remain ever behind nearly all others in these improvements which are at the basis of commercial eminence?

* Commercial Review, Vol. iv. p. 208.

There is one department of American commerce that has never been fairly represented—THE HOME TRADE. The federal authorities give with great precision the details of \$250 or \$300,000,000 moving in the operations of foreign commerce, but not a fact is developed in relation to the perhaps \$1,500,000,000 in movement between different states, or parts of the same state. There is no power in Congress to collect this data, and it is clearly the interest of the state to furnish it. Were all the facts continually before the people, showing the extent of transactions between the States and their mutual dependence, it would tend more to allay jealousy, encourage fraternity and strengthen the bonds of union, than all the republications of Washington's address the treasury could pay for.

Matters of more local interest also deserve attention. Our new Constitution gives the quietus to the whole banking system of the State. Why has this been, and what can be given of the past history of our banks, their organization and operation, the public indebtedness on their account, and public losses? How deeply interesting and instructive would this chapter, in our experience, be, if carefully corrected and written. Our laws provide for monthly and annual statements of these Banks, and they are sought with avidity by the Officers at Washington, yet to make them complete year should be compared with year, and the results of our own State with those of others.

In the same connection may be discussed as evidencing very much of a State's advancement, the various charities at work, and the extent to which they are pressed by the liberality of our citizens. The peculiar quality of our charity is to be unostentatious, but a sufficiency of facts are within reach to prove that it is not exceeded by that of any part of the Union. The suffering find ever a ready hand outstretched, and an open purse. Have we societies for literary, scientific, and other purposes, what are their results, whence their limited number and continued failures? So, too, the statistics of our libraries, newspaper and periodical press, &c., our jails, prisons, houses of refuge, and the criminal calendar, pauperism, lunatic asylums, hospitals, and penitentiaries. In regard to the two last, a complete condensation of all the reports, running back as far as they can be obtained from the books, would have very great value.

But, however, instructive these matters, clear and concise statements, showing the progress of the revenues and the expenditures of the State, as compared with other States, would be immeasurably more so. The resources of a people may be very great, and yet be exhausted by taxation. Others, under great physical disadvan-

tages, will flourish from its absence. Legislative parsimony and legislative extravagance are equally to be deprecated. The mean in governing well, is to expend intelligently and advisedly. The idea is out that the people of Louisiana are heavily and unduly taxed, and that expenditures are allowed to accumulate without reason. True or false, injury to our industry results from the impression. To arrive at the facts, our tax rolls should be compared with those of other large and wealthy communities. The tables of revenues and expenditures should be brought together, digested and systematized from a period as far back as possible, as is the custom of the general government, and the legislators and people should have them. Our eyes might be opened upon many points, and not a few reforms suggested. The complaint of the planting interests would seem to demand investigation. We should know the evil and the good, the wisdom and the folly, the truth and the error, of our ways, before the healing balm can be applied. Light in regard to the operations of government quiets apprehension and ensures contentment in the people; without it, there will not be wanting many attentive listeners to whomsoever shall preach—they are not governed so well as should be.

The offices of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, Land Officer, Auditor, Surveyor, and Adjutant-General, &c., all contain a mass of crude and undigested material, which, properly systematized and published, running back as far as the records go, must bring to light no inconsiderable information relating to the public offices, finances, land sales, militia, internal improvements, &c., of the State. The difficulty of making such a digest must be great, but the effort would be well repaid, and the Legislature realize the benefit. No more fitting time than this could be selected, when the offices removed to a new location, are in process of thorough organization. The State has liberally patronized, at large cost, digests of decisions of laws, &c., elementary histories and historical records, until they have accumulated upon the shelves of her library. Have these any higher interest or importance than the work now advocated?

Independently of the other advantages to be derived from such a statistical volume, there is a consideration which should move us. The great question of power is now being raised between the free and the slave states and must soon be settled. The former have for a variety of reasons had the advantage of us in exhibiting their resources and strength. They have had all the Statisticians to themselves and all the statistical reports. They have used them as powerful implements of warfare, and the South having nothing to show in return has been compelled to see her cause greatly pre-

judiced. Until almost the present day none of the southern States have regarded it at all important to secure records and returns of population and wealth. Not one periodical devoted itself to these subjects, though the North had many. We were taunted with our comparative weakness, poverty, insecurity, decay, and told that they were the natural results of our slavery. Having no facts to oppose, we were passive and for the most part admitted the justice of the charge. We had not studied our own strength. Only yesterday as it were, a gentleman well known to the Union, ELWOOD FISHER, Esq., in a public lecture at Cincinnati, broke ground in the matter, lucidly, and ably investigating every point connected with it, and with even the meagre data he could obtain, triumphantly vindicating the South and turning the scales upon our revilers, by exhibiting a much higher average of wealth and comfort in southern communities! It becomes Louisiana to furnish the data for carrying out these investigations and for the more full and satisfactory justification of our institutions and ourselves.

The day has passed when the South will consent to be the victim of unlicensed misrepresentation or widely propagated error, but the reform begins first at home.

The lecture of Mr. Fisher was almost our first systematic vindication and should be read by every citizen throughout our broad limits. He examines the positions of the North and the South on the adoption of the federal constitution, showing the superiority of the latter then, and how the operations of government have played into northern hands. He compares the average of property in both sections and finds the South at least on a par and in most cases at the advantage. The triumph of southern enterprise and capital says he, in the accumulation of wealth being established, &c., &c., again "thus have we fifteen southern States, one half of the number belonging to the Union, occupying half of our territory who present the extraordinary, and so far as my researches extend, the unparalleled result of a population which has acquired greater wealth by agriculture than any other people in any other manner, and who have consequently given ascendancy within their borders of country life over city, in social and political power." Again, "Hence have we seen the fearful struggle of northern labor for subsistence; notwithstanding the immense aid it has derived from modern machinery and invention. But take from that labor the custom, and subject it to the competition of the South, where so much less is required for subsistence, and that so much cheaper, and the result would be as ruinous to the present system of the North as to that of the South. These two great systems have grown up together. That of the North could not have so much

expanded without a market in southern agriculture—nor could this have grown so great, but for the demand and supplies of the North. Together they have flourished—together they must falter and fall. To restrict, therefore, the territorial extension of the South, and by circumscribing its industry render it unprofitable, is to restrict and paralyze the prosperity of the North in all its departments. Together these institutions have marched harmoniously to that eminence and success which have won the prosperity of both at home, and extorted the admiration of the world abroad. If either should fall by the hand of the other, the crime would not only be fratricide—it would be suicide, and over the mouldering ruins of both would deserve to be written the epitaph: “Here were a people who disputed about the capacity of the African for liberty and civilization, and did not themselves possess the capacity to preserve their own.”

However warmly and ardently the South may cling to the Union, and as sacred as it is to us by the associations of so much happiness and glory and power, we can never forget for a moment, that eternal vigilance is the price we must pay for it, and that to prepare for the worst in almost every crisis, is to secure the best. The danger may be remote, and is as we believe and pray, for perish the hand that shall provoke the first blow in our ruin, but not the less should we know its extent and our powers of resistance. It becomes the South to increase its strength and weight in the Union, construct its railroads, extend its commerce, build up its manufactures, protect its arts, endow its universities and colleges, provide its schools, and prepare, however the case may be, for whatever God has in store in that future, through which, to such a bad pass have matters come, no man can clearly see a single year. The madness or imbecility has not fallen upon us, with which it is said the Gods afflict those whom they intend to destroy.*

* **RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH.**—In by far the most elaborate and studied speech which the slavery excitement in Congress has produced, that of Mr. Clingman of North Carolina, the position of the South in the event of any disaster to the Union, is traced in a bold and strong hand. There are plain truths plainly spoken, and it can be no harm to calculate the value of the Union to particular sections, when the object is to preserve it in perpetuity from aggression. In our opinion no section gives more than it receives an equivalent for, and all would suffer grievously, beyond language to portray, by a dissolution of the fabric. Yet, are we not afraid to lift the curtain, and look behind into the figures of Mr. Clingman, though it may be done with solemn awe. We venture an extract, merely for its facts in relation to southern resources.

“It is difficult to determine the precise amount of the exports of the slaveholding States, because it is not practicable to arrive at the exact value of that portion which is sold to the free States. But the amount of our leading staples being pretty well known—I mean cotton, rice, tobacco, sugar, &c.,—we can arrive at the whole value of our exports pretty nearly. They cannot fall short of one hundred and thirty millions of dollars; and this year, perhaps, considerably exceed that sum. This is nearly as much as the whole of the exports of the United States to foreign countries. It must be remembered, however, that

The first volume which is then proposed from this Bureau, covers of necessity an extensive field, embraces a wide detail and will constitute a repository of information concerning our population and industry in all stages of their progress, and as compared with other communities, which does not at present exist in any of the states. It will form the ground work of all future labors of the office, and be always completed to date by the annual or biennial reports of the person in charge. The duties of keeping up, after the foundation is laid, will be comparatively easy and the length of the reports not exceeding that of an ordinary pamphlet. For such

though the free States furnish part of our exports, yet that which they do afford is scarcely so much as the portion of our own products which goes to them for consumption. If, therefore, we were separated, our whole exports to the North, and to foreign countries generally, would be equal to that sum. Of course we should import as much, and in fact do at this time consume as much. A duty of thirty per cent. on these imports (and most of the rates of the present tariff law are higher) would yield a revenue of nearly forty millions of dollars.

"As the prices of almost all manufactured articles are regulated by the production of the great workshops of Europe, where the accumulation of capital and labor keeps down production to the lowest possible rates, I have no doubt but that sum would be raised without any material increase of the prices which our citizens now pay. We might therefore expend as much as the Government of the United States ever did in time of peace up to the beginning of General Jackson's administration, and still have on hand twenty-five millions of dollars to devote to the making of railroads, opening our harbors and rivers, and for other domestic purposes. Or, by levying only a twenty per cent. duty, which the northern manufacturers found ruinous to them, as they said, under Mr. Clay's compromise bill, we should be able to raise some twenty-five millions of dollars. Half of this sum would be sufficient for the support of our army, navy, and civil government. The residue might be devoted to the making of all such improvements as we are now in want of, and especially checkering our country over with railroads. Subjecting the goods of the North to a duty, with those from other foreign countries, would at once give a powerful stimulus to our own manufactures. We have already sufficient capital for the purpose. But if needed, it would come in from abroad. English capitalists have filled Belgium with factories. Why did this occur? Simply because provisions were cheaper there and taxes lower than in England. The same motives would bring them into the southern country, since both the reasons assigned are much stronger in our case. It has already been proved that we can manufacture some kinds of goods more cheaply than the North. In New England, too, owing to her deficient agriculture, every thing is directed to manufacturing, and the system is strained up to a point which is attended with great social disadvantages, so as to retard population. In the South it need not be so. The climate and soil are very favorable to agricultural pursuits. Our slaves might be chiefly occupied on the farms, while the poorer class of our white population, and a portion of our females, could be advantageously employed in manufacturing. We should thus have that diversity in our pursuits which is most conducive to the prosperity and happiness of a people.

"Our carrying trade would probably for a time be in the hands of the English and other foreigners. This, however, would not be to our disadvantage, since northern ship-owners now charge as much for freight between New York and New Orleans as they do for carrying it to Canton, on the opposite side of the globe. The whole amount of the freight on southern productions, received by the northern ship-owners, has, on a minute calculation, been set down at forty millions one hundred and eighty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight dollars, (\$40,186,728.) The whole value which the North derives from its southern connexion has been estimated, by some persons most familiar with these statistics, at more than eighty-eight millions of dollars. Whoever looks into the condition of the different States prior to the formation of the Union, and compares it with their situation at first, under low duties, up to the war and tariff of 1816, and its successors, highly protective as they have been, will find the facts fully sustaining the opinions I have expressed."

duties it is believed the present salary allowed the Superintendent, small as it is, will be found sufficient, or at all events no considerable addition will be demanded.

In the matter of establishing the office and preparing the voluminous report referred to, it must be evident at a glance that the remuneration allowed to the superintendent by law is altogether inadequate, and that no one, whatever his interest in the matter, would be likely to accept it. Hoping, as he does, so much from the practical working of the office in the future, and feeling so much the pride of an early advocacy and support, the undersigned is unwilling to jeopard its favor by any drafts upon the treasury, or demands for additional compensation. He is desirous rather to increase and extend in every manner its usefulness, even at a personal sacrifice.

The only appropriation that is asked from the Legislature, is the sum of five hundred dollars, as a contingent fund to defray the expenses of the office in the next two years, viz: the printing of circulars, stationary, postage, purchase and copies of documents, blanks and other incidental expenses, etc.

There are details relating to the organization of the Bureau which the undersigned will at a future day suggest. In the present state of matters, no change perhaps can be recommended with propriety, likely to add materially to the expenses of the office. In the course of a year or two the legislature will be able to form better notions of its value, and as it works itself into favor, be disposed to greater liberality. In this case would be suggested statutory enactments in its aid, rendering it obligatory under penalty, upon the assessors, coroners, public institutions of every kind, charities, clerks of courts, hospitals, inspectors, justices of the peace, district attorneys, recorders, notaries, sheriffs, auctioneers, inspector general, &c., to report annually and fully to the Bureau. As this would induce some complication and increase of expense, and is suited to a more advanced stage, it is not at present recommended.

It is, however, respectfully suggested, that the legislature, as has been done in New York and several other states, order a copy of each newspaper published in the parishes out of New Orleans and two in that city, to be subscribed for regularly and filed on the office of the Bureau. These volumes will in time possess great value and usefulness. It would be also very desirable, if capable of being effected by any reasonable means, to obtain the files of at least one Journal, running back as near the beginning of the century as possible. The state possesses no such file, from which the minutiae of her history for the last half century could be derived, and the want of it is often most seriously felt.

The undersigned reserves the details of his report, with the various statistics and documents, until the next session of the legislature, at which time the volume will be completed, in every particular, and submitted for approval. He regrets the present paper is not more interesting, and that it deals so much in suggestions rather than in figures. It was not thought advisable for the present to extend any further the limits of a report merely introductory.*

With high consideration,

J. B. B. DE BOW.

*In another place the movement for a census volume in New Orleans was referred to. The committee of the General Council have since published their report, from which the following is extracted:

Louisiana has established a statistical bureau with a view of collecting the facts bearing upon the general condition, progress and working of the population and industry of the State, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Georgia, are either directly or indirectly doing the same thing. The city of Boston whose progress within the last ten years, has been viewed with astonishment throughout the whole nation, has taken the most liberal course in relation to this and other matters tending to build up a city.

Our sister city of Charleston has now the same thing in progress. The voluminous report being in the course of publication, it can hardly be necessary to press upon the people of New Orleans the importance of similar action. Our city is less understood than any in the country; it has grown in the last thirty years in a proportion equal to that of any city in the world, and a single Municipality (the Second) has doubled her population in a third or fourth of that time; the time has come when we should collect the data of our progress, to be obtained only by unremitting toil and from a great variety of sources, many of which may be lost unless seized upon at once; it will aid us, too, at a better understanding of our true position to improve the advantages we derive from nature, counteract the evils that may menace us, and draw the soundest rules and deductions for the future. A true and explicit statement of our resources, condition and progress will establish and confirm our credit at home and abroad. Without the facts thus gathered, we are likely to grope in the dark, and to realize little from our own experience or that of others; there is a propriety in the action of the Council upon this subject. The General Council is the only body representing the city of New Orleans, and as such, should direct and advise in the gathering and publication of the statistics suggested in this report. The sum of money that this enterprise will probably require will not exceed five thousand dollars; the sale of the book itself will probably pay the expense of publication. This sum appropriated by the several Municipalities, would add but little to the expense of the city, and contribute vastly to the advantages of every part of it. In the single item of mortality, statistics, it is believed, the facts and tables, so far as they can be gathered from official, and other sources, will rescue the city from the imputation of excessive unhealthiness, operating so disastrously against us abroad, and tend, in the highest degree, to promote our population, and tend to quiet the apprehension of those who would visit or reside among us.

The subjects to which attention should be called in the report, are;

1st.—In regard to the population of New Orleans from the earliest records of the city to the acquisition of Louisiana by the United States, or the admission of Louisiana as a State to the Union; from this period to the division into Municipalities in 1836, from that to the present time; the progress of population distinguishing as far as may be the increase by birth and immigration, and from what country, classes of population, condition, employment, ages, sexes, births, marriages and deaths, longevity, diseases, mortality from all sources, schools, colleges, libraries, proportion educated at home and abroad, costs of education, analysis of the various census returns, &c.

2d.—In regard to manufactures and arts, kind of manufactures in operation, persons employed, powers, capital, wages, materials, and future prospects of manufactures.

3d.—In regard to the commercial tables of the trade of New Orleans from the earliest French and Spanish times, so far as obtainable; to state in every particular imports and exports, navigation, tables of prices, &c.

4th.—In regard to municipal finances, &c., tables of revenue and expenditure from earliest dates, public works, taxes, debts, &c.

5th.—Miscellanies—including Banks, Insurance Offices, Railroads, Canals, Levees, Battures, Buildings constructed at various times, Streets, Societies, Churches, Hospitals, Benevolent Associations, Courts, crimes, prisoners, pauperism, &c. &c., keeping in all matters, so far as practicable, the division in the three periods of time, and in the last period conforming to the three local divisions of the city.

These tables digested are systemized to be contrasted with those obtained from the census returns of other cities.

NATHAN JARVIS, Chairman.

APPENDIX NO. 1.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS—DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

New Orleans, 1st July, 1848.

SIR,—A Bureau of Statistics having been established, and the undersigned entrusted with its charge, he begs to invite from citizens in every section of the state, such information as they can impart in regard to its present condition and past history.

The appended queries will give an idea of the character of the facts required, and will be suggestive of others. The plan of the Bureau contemplates *every kind of information concerning the State*, and it will be in the power of most persons to communicate something, upon one or more of the heads. It is of very great importance that the report, contemplated to the next legislature, be *complete*.

The aid of the members of the legislature, editors, public officers, citizens, &c., in all the parishes, is invoked, and will be most gratefully acknowledged.

Donations of old files of newspapers, records, etc., to be deposited in the Bureau, will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

J. D. B. DE BOW.

- I. Time of *settlement* of your parish or town; dates of oldest land grants; number and condition of first settlers; whence emigrating; other facts relating to settlement and history.
- II. *Indian names* in your vicinity; what tribes originally; what relics or monuments of them; if Indians still, in what condition?
- III. *Biography*, anecdotes, &c., of individuals distinguished in your vicinity in the past for ingenuity, enterprise, literature, talents, civil or military, &c.
- IV. *Topographical description* of your parish, mountains, rivers, ponds, animals, quadrupeds, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, &c., vegetable growths, rocks, minerals, sand clays, chalk, flint, marble, pit coal, pigments, medicinal and poisonous substances, elevation above the sea, nature of surface, forests, or undergrowth, what wells and quality of well water, nature of coasts, does the water make inroads, mineral springs, caves, &c.
- V. *Agricultural description* of parish; former and present state of cultivation; changes taking place; introduction of cotton, sugar, rice, indigo, tobacco, grains, fruits, vines, &c., &c.; present products; lands occupied and unoccupied, and character of soils; value of lands; state of improvements; value of agricultural products; horses, cattle, mules, hogs, and whence supplied; profits of agriculture, prices of products; new estates opening; improvements suggested in cultivation, and new growths; improvements in communication, roads, bridges, canals, &c.; kind and quantity of timber, fuel, &c.; state of the roads, summer and winter; kinds of enclosures, and of what timber; manures; natural and artificial pastures; agricultural implements used; fruit trees, vines, and orchards; modes of transportation; extent of internal navigation; levees, &c.; modes of cultivating and manufacturing sugar in use.
- VI. Instances of *longevity* and *fecundity*; observations on diseases in your section; localities, healthful or otherwise: statistics of diseases: deaths; summer seats, &c.
- VII. *Population* of your parish; increase and progress, distinguishing white and black; Spanish, French, American, or German origin; foreigners, classes of population; number in towns; growth of towns and villages, etc.; condition, employment, ages; comparative value of free and slave labor; comparative tables of increase; marriages, births, etc.; meteorological tables of temperature, weather, rains, etc.
- VIII. *Education and Religion*—Advantages of schools, colleges, libraries enjoyed; proportion educated at home and abroad; expense of education: school returns, churches or chapels in parish, when and by whom erected; how supplied with clergy; how supported and attended; oldest interments; church vaults, &c.

- IX. *Products in Manufactures and the Arts*—Kinds of manufactures in parish; persons employed; kind of power; capital; wages; per centum profit; raw material; sugar and cotton; machinery and improvements; kind and value; manufacturing sites, &c.
- X. *Commercial Statistics*—Value of the imports and exports of Louisiana with each of the other states of the Union, as far as any approximation may be made or data given; growth and condition of towns; increase in towns, &c.
- XI. *General Statistics*—Embracing banking, railroads, insurances, navigation, intercommunication; learned and scientific societies; crime, pauperism, charities, public and benevolent institutions; militia, newspapers, &c.; application of parish taxes; expenses of roads, levees, &c.; number of suits decided in different courts; expenses and perfection of justice; number of parish officers, lawyers, physicians, &c.
- XII. Date, extent, consequences, and other circumstances of droughts, freshets, whirlwinds, storms, lightnings, hurricanes, or other remarkable physical events, in your section from remote periods; other meteorological phenomena; changes in climate. &c., &c.
- XIII. Literary productions emanating from your neighborhood; your associations if any; what manuscripts, public or private records, letters, journals, &c., or rare old books, interesting in their relation to the history of Louisiana, are possessed by individuals within your knowledge. State any other matters of interest.

APPENDIX NO. 2.

FRENCH COLONIAL RECORDS OF LOUISIANA.

PARIS, Oct., 20th, 1849.

Your note of June, 1848, inviting me to make "researches in the different foreign offices for information touching the early colonial history of Louisiana," reached me in New York, on the eve of my departure from America, and I had only time to acknowledge its receipt. I have now the pleasure of enclosing you a brief report upon the extent and value of the Historical material contained in the different Archives of the French Government. You will receive, at the same time, the first volume (4to. 500 pages,) of the index that I have had made, of all the documents in these archives, in any way pertaining to Louisiana. The second volume, coming down to the period of the transfer of Louisiana to the United States 1803, I hope, will be completed before the fall. When in the receipt of these two volumes, the State will be in the possession of more satisfactory information, touching the importance of these papers to its history, than could be furnished by any report. On reaching London, in August of last year, I applied to know of the existence, and means of access, to any documents touching Louisiana, in the archives of the English Government. I was happy to find our Minister, Mr. Bancroft, engaged in a more general research for papers referring to American History. As his labors traversed the period of our State history, he kindly promised to note my object, and have duplicates prepared of such papers, as were hitherto unknown, and deemed of sufficient importance. Since then, I have learned from him, that he found none.

The archives of the French Government, are full of valuable papers. The original establishment of Louisiana by France, and the intimate connexion that existed between the colony and the mother country for near two centuries, have made the archives of this Government, the principal depository of our history. Through the influence of our Minister, Mr. Rush, I have had access to these different depots. Frequent revolutions, have disturbed somewhat the admirable system that prevailed from the first in France, of recording the minutest matters relating to her colonies. Reports and decrees, originally destined to particular departments, have been changed and mixed up with matters entirely irrelevant, and the Louisiana documents are thus divided among nine different departments. In some of them they are arranged with order, and securely bound according to date. In others they are thrown with the Canada and West India papers, without reference to date or subject. Many of them are without date.

It is in the department of the Marine, that are found the most valuable. Beginning early in the seventeenth century, they are scattered through the correspondence of the office, down to the period of the cession of Louisiana by Bonaparte to the United States, in 1803. They are more voluminous and minute at particular epochs, than at others; but

their degree of historical interest, both personal and descriptive, is great. The early communication between Canada and the Mississippi territory, has so connected their history with the expeditions of De Lasalle, that many of the documents relative to Canada are essential to a knowledge of the antecedents and early struggles of such officers as Cavalier De Lasalle, D'Iberville, and his brothers, De Muy, Lamotte, Cadillac, and others, who passed from commands in the one province to the other. There are also Royal dispatches, addressed, some to Canada and others to the West India colonies, and the Antilles, that embrace equally Louisiana. These documents are contained in an hundred and four cartons. The cartons are in 4to. and contain each, five or nine hundred pages. Papers of indirect reference to Louisiana, are scattered all through these.

The documents in the Marine department that are labelled Louisiana and pertain *directly* to its history, are in twenty-seven large volumes. Some of them are classified by subject and date; but the majority are collected together without order. One of these cartons refers exclusively to difficulties with, and descriptions of the Natchez Indians.

Thirteen others, from 1697 down to 1768, relate generally to the history of the colonization and government of Louisiana.

Another from 1768-70 inclusive, describes the revolt against D'Ulloa, judgments, executions, &c.

Two other volumes relate to the re-taking of Louisiana from Spain, and its cession by Bonaparte to the United States.

One carton is filled with documents without date, many of them of much interest.

There is also, one volume of dispatches and orders of the King, from 1697 to 1736.

Three large volumes folio, entitled *Memoires of Louisiana*.

Two volumes of expeditions to Louisiana, accounts of India, &c., 1721 to 1731.

A register and carton of the names and commissions of officers emigrating to or serving in Louisiana.

There are two volumes filled entirely with decrees.

There is also a volume containing a sketch of the territory, with a record of different concessions.

In the depot of the Marine department, there exists, perhaps, twenty maps of the territory, of different size and date.

In the War department, there are many documents of personal and military interest.—Here there is more order than in the Marine department, and the papers are arranged according to date.

In the depot of this department, there are fifteen large volumes folio of *memoires* concerning Louisiana, and the rivalry between France and England in the growth of their colonies. There are other papers also, of direct and indirect reference to Louisiana, scattered through the volumes labelled Canada; but of less interest than those in the Marine.

There are also, several sketches of the territory and its military capacity.

The National Library of the rue Richelieu, contains several documents of much interest to Louisiana.

Leonard—One volume of pieces under the name of Leonard, (Augustin friar.) This volume treats of the first years of the 18th century, and generally upon the enterprise of D'Iberville.

History of Louisiana by Pericau—An interesting volume of two hundred pages.—(This has been copied by Mr. Mague of New Orleans, and I believe is now possessed by the State.)

A Journal of a voyage to Louisiana by Bernard de la Harpe.

There are also some maps. In addition, there are a number of volumes treating generally of colonial history, with occasional reference to Louisiana.

In the depot formerly called Archives of the Kingdom, and consisting of documents drawn from all the other departments, there are some papers pertaining to Louisiana, but they are not numerous, and are to be found in the historical section. Also, some in the territorial section.

In the Archives of the Cour des Comptes, there are three large volumes pertaining to the administration of the India Company, in which are found many papers touching Louisiana. They extend from 1723 to 1731. There are seventeen other volumes labelled Canada, but they contain little of value.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is difficult to say what is the extent or value of the papers relating to Louisiana. Admission into its archives is rarely granted. It was

refused by M. Guizot to the agent of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was however, introduced, and carried back to America much valuable material. Up to the date of this letter, I have made no examination in this department, but on request, the following sketch of its contents has been prepared, and may be relied on as far as it goes.

There exist in good condition, two volumes in folio of about 700 pages each, entitled Louisiana and Florida.

The documents in the 1st volume, extend from 1712 to 1791, and treat principally of the cession of Louisiana by France to Spain. One of these documents dated Feb, 8th, 1759, discusses the policy of a general emigration of the colonists from Canada to Louisiana.— Another dated Jan., 7th, 1789, discusses in upwards of 300 pages the policy of a retrocession of Louisiana by Spain to France.

The 2d volume embraces the history of the retrocession of Louisiana, and its ultimate transfer to the United States. It contains letters from Bonaparte, Carnot and Talleyrand, and others of the most eminent French statesmen. Also, the correspondence of citizens Rounce, Perignon, De LaCroix, Collot, St. Cyr, and others. In addition to these two volumes, there are papers of much interest upon the scheme of Law, and its influence in the settlement and growth of the colony.

3,000 pages would not be too large an estimate for the contents of this department.

In conclusion, to resume, there are

17 Cartous in the Marine, averaging perhaps,	- -	1,000 pages,	17,000
40 Volumes of the Dispatches and Orders of the King,	- -	300 "	12,000
3 Volumes Memoirs, each one about,	- -	1,000 "	3,000
India Accounts,	- -	2,000 "	2,000
The Personal, Commissions, &c.,	- -	2,000 "	2,000
Concessions,	- -	1,000 "	1,000
Indirect Documents,	- -	10,000 "	10,000
			46,000
In the National Library, rue Richelieu, there are	- -	- -	3,000
Ancient Archives of the Kingdom,	- -	- -	200
Archives of the Cour des Comptes,	- -	- -	3,000
In the Ministry of War,	- -	- -	6,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	- -	- -	3,000
			61,200.

This is perhaps a calculation rather large.

As to the expense of having these documents copied, there are three points to be considered. First, the payment for copies of the documents. Second, the cost of the paper. Third, the selection and revision and general superintendence of the work.

The cost of copying may be rated at 10 cents the page. This is what New York and Massachusetts paid.

The paper of the kind required to copy on, will cost about 30 francs the thousand pages. For 60,000 pages, say from \$300 to \$600.

As to the salary of the persons who shall compile the papers and direct the copyists, it must depend on circumstances, and the merit of the individual. It is difficult to assign a sum.

The labor of securing all the documents will occupy two years, perhaps more time.— An hundred pages a day is all that can be properly reckoned on, and it is proper to calculate on many delays.

The above estimate supposes that the State would desire copies of every document touching its history. There are, however, many of these unimportant. Should a selection be made, those of real value would not exceed in all 35,000 pages.

The person commissioned to superintend this compilation should receive his instructions from the Historical Society, and have his commission signed by the Governor of the State. He would then have every facility extended to him.

I need not dwell on the importance of securing at once the documents that I have sketched. Their possession, in a degree, involves the honor of the State. They are rich in material, and will fully repay investigation. No one can rise from their study without a higher opinion of those who first settled in Louisiana. They were like all early colonists, influenced by varied motives; but a perusal of the reports made to the home government, shows that they carried with them into the forest much of the romantic enthusiasm for liberty that has since characterized the French nation. They appear to have been kind



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and just in their dealings with the natives. We read no where of cruelty. They conciliated when it was possible, and their priests met with success scarcely equalled in any other part of America.

With the hope that you may deem it consistent with your duty to advise an appropriation by the approaching Assembly for securing the historical material referred to in this letter,

I am, with much respect,

Very truly yours,

JOHN PERKINS, JR.

APPENDIX NO. III.

"The Vital Statistics of New Orleans," says Dr. Barton, in his able report to the American Medical Association, "constitute a problem, and an important one, that has never been solved. We have to presume the United States census of 1830, to be correct, that of 1840, the cause of all the errors, we now know was not; a census was made in 1847, it was partially correct only; the entire population almost certainly was not given, and then there were no details of ages, &c., and, of course, no basis for calculating the average age of the living; so I have taken these for 1830 as my basis, and calculated it to be twenty-four years one month. In the census of 1847, none but strictly family residents were taken; the thousands that count New Orleans their homes, and are occasionally absent, were left out entirely." Dr. Barton, therefore, adds 5,000 to the census of 1847, making the number 100,028, and supposes 20 to 30,000 floating population, belonging to the city, and adding to its diseases and deaths. He then calculates the mortality from 1841 to 1848, at 1 in 19.32 of the population, an estimate of the most mournful character, if the evidence be found satisfactory. In 1845 the mortality was 1 in 33.07. Dr. Barton adds, "I think I am entitled to the credit of having rescued from oblivion some ten or fifteen years of the records of mortality, which had been surreptitiously made away with. I have collected now the mortality for about forty years," &c. "The actual mortality of the city, is certainly very large, but then it is evident from the ages of those who die, from their short residence here, and from their course of life, not at all adapted to the climate, that the climate, *per se*, has less to do with it than other conditions."

